

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /096 W

----- 063742

R 061255Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6928

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0244

DEPT PASS DIA

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: POGV, PINT, MA (RATSIMANDRAVA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SPEECH BY NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE,

COLONEL RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA, FEB 5, 1975

REF: TANANARIVE 232

1. SET OUT BELOW IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT
OF SPEECH BY NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
COLONEL RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA, GIVEN AS HE ASSUMED OFFICE ON
FEBRUARY 5, 1975, AS REPORTED BY "MADAGASCAR MATIN".

2. BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR GENERAL: YOUR GESTURE WILL BE
A LANDMARK IN THE NATION'S HISTORY. I AM VERY TOUCHED BY
THE CONFIDENCE YOU PLACED IN ME. I WILL ASSUME MY
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RESPONSIBILITIES, AND I ACCEPT THE FULL POWERS YOU JUST

GRANTED ME. I AM ALSO VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU AND YOURS FOR
WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE COUNTRY. GOD KEEP YOU* PARA
MY DEAR MINISTERS: I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OCCASION TO
REMIND YOU PUBLICLY HERE OF THE AGREEMENTS WE CAME TO
BEFORE YOU ACCEPTED YOUR APPOINTMENTS. OUR POLICY WILL BE
THAT OUTLINED BY THE REFERENDUM OF OCTOBER 8, 1972:
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE "FOKONOLONA" (VILLAGE COUNCILS) IN
EQUITY AND JUSTICE. ONLY THE INTERESTS OF THE MASSES WILL BE
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PURSUING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE
PEOPLE. THE FOUR PROBLEMS WHICH WE MUST COPE WITH ARE: PRICES,
UNEMPLOYMENT, SETTING UP OF A NEW URBAN STRUCTURE, AND DECENTRA-
LIZATION. I WILL STRICTLY PURSUE THESE OBJECTIVES. PARA
AS FOR THE PEOPLE, THEY MUST REMAIN WATCHFUL AS THEY
FACE VARIOUS MANEUVERS FROM THE OPPOSITION TO DESTROY
NATIONAL UNITY. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE SABOTAGE OF OUR
STRUGGLE BY A MINORITY. I REPLY ON THE FOKONOLONA'S WISDOM
AND I HOPE THAT MY OBJECTIVES WILL BE IN CONFORMITY WITH
YOUR ASPIRATIONS. PARA
MADAGASCAR HAS BEEN ALWAYS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS KEEN SENSE
OF HOSPITALITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH FOREIGNERS.
TO THEM, WHETHER THEY ARE DIPLOMATS OR BUSINESSMEN, I
SAY THAT THEY MAY WORK QUIETLY HERE IN OUR COUNTRY PROVIDED
THAT THEY RESPECT OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DO NOT
INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THAT THEY RESPECT OUR
LAWS, ESPECIALLY ON INVESTMENT. PARA
NOW IS THE TIME FOR WORK* END TEXT.
MENDENHALL

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